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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesman**

For Immediate Release

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**MEDIA NOTE****State Department Announces Next Steps in Keystone XL Pipeline Permit Process**

The U.S. Department of State expects to request public comment on a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in mid-April. The Supplemental EIS will seek public comment on issues that will benefit from further public input. A Federal Register notice, to be issued in the mid-April time period, will provide further details.

Keystone XL is a proposed 1700-mile oil pipeline from the U.S.-Canadian border in Montana, through Cushing, Oklahoma, to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

In order to provide interested parties and the public the maximum opportunity to comment on this important project, the Department will continue to solicit public comment. The State Department has held over 20 public comment meetings along the pipeline route in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as in Washington, D.C.

The public will have 45 days to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS after the anticipated mid-April comment period begins. Following issuance of a Final EIS, the State Department will solicit public comment and host a public meeting in Washington, D.C., before it makes a determination under Executive Order 13337 on whether issuance of this permit is in the U.S. national interest.

The U.S. Department of State expects to make a decision on whether to grant or deny the permit before the end of 2011.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER  
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